

SITUATION REPORT NO. 12
INCIDENT NO. 2000-016
DATE: June 21, 2000 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding – Due to a series of thunderstorms since June 12 and high water tables, resulting from eight years of consecutive flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous report.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) in Grand Forks reports that scattered showers will continue over central and eastern North Dakota today and tomorrow with rainfall under one-half inch. A wind advisory exists statewide with wind speeds of 25 -40 miles per hour (mph) and higher gusts at times. Chance of thunderstorms Thursday night through Saturday with rain amounts between one quarter to one half inches projected.

Cass County Emergency Management reports that many of Fargo's city streets are closed due to high water. The Fargo dome has water on ground and concourse levels up to the seats. Most of the dome's electrical, mechanical and storage areas are affected. North Dakota State University sustained significant water damage to buildings. Individual homes have suffered sump and sewer damage due to loss of power, sanitary failure or inability to keep up with the flow of water. There are other public, private and non-profit or business damages due to flooded buildings. There is an unknown amount of crop loss in the county due to water runoff.

In Fargo all underpasses are blocked except for South University Drive and I-94. Traffic is being rerouted on the following roads: I-29 south diverted to ND Highway 46, I-94 closed east of Moorhead, MN and diverted to ND Highway 75 in Moorhead. The flooded underpasses water level is beginning to go down and pumping of water is becoming more effective.

Sargent County Emergency Management reports damage to public roads due to high water table, wind erosion, and wave action. Five families have basement damages and well system problems.

Grand Forks County Emergency Management reports that the Red River is currently at 18.60 feet and rising. It is expected to reach 28 feet, which is

flood stage, on June 23 and crest at 33 feet on June 24. Grand Forks Public Works has sent water pumps to Fargo to help alleviate flood conditions.

Traill County Emergency Management reports that County Road 12, one and one half miles east of Mayville is closed due to excessive water runoff causing the culvert to be washed away. One lift station failed in Mayville causing at least four homes to get sewage backup in their basements. One township road in Viking township was water covered with loss of gravel from runoff. The cities of Mayville and Hillsboro declared a flood emergency on June 19. The Goose River is at 9.3 feet as of 9 a.m. June 21. Traill County emergency manager indicates that it should start to fall soon, but expressed a concern for the community should it go to 10 feet or greater.

McClean County reports several roads under water, roads damaged, loss of gravel, high winds have eroded road shoulders. Initial damage estimates to county roads is placed at \$95,000. There are no estimates of cropland damage at this time.

Public Assistance preliminary damage assessments are being conducted in the following counties: Bottineau, McHenry, Pierce, Walsh, Nelson, Grand Forks, Eddy, Foster, Wells, Sheridan, Kidder, Griggs, Traill, Cass, Ransom, McClean. Benson County is assessing damages.

Individual Assistance preliminary damage assessments have been conducted in the following counties: Pierce, McHenry, Wells and Sheridan. Other assessments continue in Walsh, Nelson, Grand Forks, Eddy, Foster, Kidder, Traill, Cass and Ransom.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: City crews from Fargo, West Fargo, Casselton, Harwood and Horace are dealing with many Public Works issues. Local Law enforcement personnel remain available, along with barricades, trucks and pumps.

STATE: In Fargo/Cass County the North Dakota Department of Transportation is providing relief crews and pumping equipment. The North Dakota Highway Patrol is assisting by maintaining traffic control around the flooded areas. Units of the North Dakota National Guard are assisting the Highway Patrol by providing transportation and traffic control.

FEDERAL: Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency are on scene in the various county disaster areas to participate with state and local government personnel in Public Assistance and Individual Assistance preliminary damage assessments.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross is expanding their operation in North Dakota due to extensive flooding in Fargo on June 19. The Red Cross is shifting their operation from Grand Forks to Moorhead, MN on June 22. They currently have 70 staff with additional supervisory

staff arriving. The Red Cross is tentatively planning to open three service centers in the Fargo/Moorhead area. A shelter that housed 6 people was open at Centennial school in Fargo on Tuesday is now closed. Red Cross workers will be sending an outreach team into Wells County. They have completed a damage assessment that indicates 2407 units affected of which 1900 are in Fargo. The Red Cross to date has served 3811 meals and issued 163 clean up kits in all the affected areas excluding the Fargo/West Fargo area.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS:

The N.D. Agriculture Commissioner recently participated in a tour of flood impacted areas with the state's Congressional delegation and the state executive director of the Farm Service Agency.

In Fargo and West Fargo several roadways and streets have been closed due to high water. These include Cass County 9, 2 miles north of Highway 46, Cass County 5, south of Erie, Cass County 17 closed at I-94, Township Road 5, south of Chaffee, 57th Street NW of Fargo, I-94, one-half mile west of Casselton. Much of the water on these roadways has begun to recede. Some sandbagging is being done to plug culverts. I-94 east and west of Fargo is open. I-29 north of Fargo to mile point 100 is open, however I-29 south of Fargo remains closed.

Most recent disaster declarations include the cities of Minnewaukan, Fargo and West Fargo and Foster, Sargent, Kidder, Ransom, Traill and McClean counties. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa also declared the reservation a disaster area

The North Dakota State Electrical Board (NDSEB) has been working with Ottertail Power and Nodak Electric to assess the extent of damage to inundated electrical equipment in buildings in Grand Forks county. NDSEB reports five houses on the west side of County Road 2 will need the electrical panels replaced. An additional 11 houses will need some electrical work done before power can be restored. Also found were 50-60 houses in Grand Forks county that will need some electrical work to assure safe electrical installation. NDSEB is also monitoring the Cass county area for flood related damages to inundated electrical equipment. They will be assessing damages on Tuesday, June 20, 2000 and will be reporting on Wednesday, June 21, 2000 as to what the assessment showed.

The water and wastewater infrastructure in Fargo did not suffer disruption of service because of back up power systems in place, nor did they have any damage according to preliminary assessments. The plant has been able to handle all wastewater including sanitary sewers. The sewer systems, however, remain fragile for the next 24 to 48 hours.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Fargo and West Fargo requested pumps to assist in removing water from with the two cities. Fargo's request for

transportation assistance is being met by the North Dakota National Guard. They are providing assistance in transporting stranded residents, and in moving equipment due to high water.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Officials and staff representing the N.D. State Water Commission, N.D. Department of Agriculture, N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. Highway Patrol, the Governor's Office, N.D. Department of Human Services, the state's Congressional delegation, Federal Emergency Management, N.D. Emergency Management Agency and N.D. National Guard have been in the impacted area at various times.
9. OTHER: The Red River Valley Fair has postponed their grandstand performance for June 20, due to rain soaked grounds. Rural Cass County has begun damage assessment and plans to complete this process by June 23.

Pembina and Steele Counties will not be making a disaster declaration at this time.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is:
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director